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December 13, 2000

Hon. Commissioner Jane Henney
Docket No. 00P-1211\CP1
FDA Dockets Management Branch
(HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Dear Commissioner Henney:

It has been brought to my attention that the Food and Drug Administration is receiving input from citizens regarding a proposed new rule and guidance on genetically engineered food products.

I wish to let it be known that I am opposed to voluntarily labeling of foods that have been altered or modified by genetic engineering. I am very concerned that foods that have been changed by this process are not being labeled so. Recent and well publicized problems involving corn products not approved for human consumption getting into widely distributed products point out the need for rigorous controls. Citizens have a right to know what they are eating. I demand to have a choice and without mandatory labeling and a solid enforcement process, there is no way I can be assured that I do have the choice not to consume these foods.

Genetically engineered foods should not receive FDA blessings in the form of assumptions of "generally recognized as safe" until longitudinal studies (spanning at least a decade and involving the rigor of independent scientific testing) can be conducted. Until these studies show these products to be harmless, they should not be allowed on the market. If commercial entities apply pressure to government to continue altering these species and selling the food products of them, at the very least a solid and enforceable labeling practice needs to be in place.

Thank you for considering my views on this very important matter.

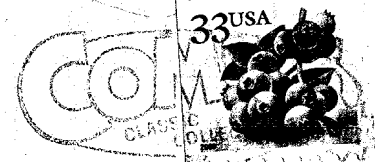
Very truly yours,


Terrence Higgins

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